Remarks

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on September 27, 2005. The specification is amended to update references to co-pending applications, and the claims are amended as noted below. Claims 1-5, 7-11, and 14-20 remain pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

I.   Summary of Claim Amendments

Claim 6 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and subject matter from claim 6 is incorporated into claim 1. Claim 8 is amended to address informalities. Claims 12 and 13 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and subject matter from claims 12 and 13 is incorporated into claim 11. Claim 14 is amended to depend from claim 11. Claim 16 is amended to incorporate subject matter similar to that of claim 6. No new matter is added. Consideration and entry of the amendments are respectfully requested.

II.   Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

A.   Numano

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Numano, U.S. Patent No. 6,934,778. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed at a commanding system for a computer. Claim 1 recites a commanding node having a table of bindings, and a service having a table of service bindings. Claim 1 further recites a processor programmed to pass an input to the commanding node and the service, wherein, even if the matching binding is found in the table of bindings of the commanding node, the commanding node passes the input to the service prior to invoking a command handler.

In this manner, even if a matching binding is found in the table of bindings of the commanding node, the commanding node passes the input to the service node. By passing the input to the service node, the service node can, for example, search the table of service bindings to see if one or more service bindings match the input. Commanding can therefore be enhanced by the information contained in any matching binding in the table of service bindings.

7

Numano discloses a Terminate-and-Stay-Resident (TSR) control program 304 that allows a user to review and modify shortcut key information for an operating system and applications on a computer. Numano, col. 4, l. 45 - col. 8, l. 44. For example, control program 304 can read and display shortcut key information for the operating system and applications (Fig. 6) and allow the user to modify the shortcut key information (Fig. 9).

Numano fails to disclose or suggest how to handle commanding between the operating system and applications. Numano therefore fails to disclose or suggest that, even if the matching binding is found in the table of bindings of the commanding node, the commanding node passes the input to the service prior to invoking a command handler, as recited by claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as well as claims 2-5 and 7-10 that depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.

Claim 11 is directed to computer readable medium having data structure stored thereon for use in commanding within a computing environment. Claim 11 recites a first binding table for a first commanding node, and a second binding table for a second commanding node. Claim 11 further recites that the first and second commanding nodes form a tree.

For example, Figure 4 of the present application illustrates one embodiment of a tree 400 including a plurality of nodes, one or more of the nodes being associated with a binding table. Tree 400 can be traversed with an input to connect the input to an action. Application, p. 9, ll. 4-10.

Numano fails to disclose or suggest first and second commanding nodes that form a tree, as recited by claim 11. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 11, as well as claims 14 and 15 that depend therefrom, are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 16 is directed to a method for commanding a computer system. Claim 16 recites passing an input to a commanding node, and passing the input to a service coupled to the commanding node prior to invoking a handler even if the matching binding is found in the table of bindings. Claim 16 is therefore allowable for at least reasons similar to those provided above with respect to claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 16, as well as claims 17-20 that depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.

8

B.   Davis

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Davis, U.S. Patent No. 6,400,382. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested for at least the following reasons.

Davis discloses a system 12 including a link system 80 that searches the system for links to executables on the system, and stores the links in a destination container 70. Davis, col. 2, ll. 9-21. The links or "shortcuts" disclosed by Davis are therefore links to executables, not to bindings in a commanding structure. Davis fails to disclose or suggest a commanding structure.

Claim 1 recites a commanding system for a computer including a commanding node having a table of bindings, and a service having a table of service bindings. Davis fails to disclose or suggest such as system. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as well as claims 2-5 and 7-10 that depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.

Claim 11 recites a computer readable medium having data structure stored thereon for use in commanding within a computing environment, including a first binding table for a first commanding node, and a second binding table for a second commanding node. Davis fails to disclose or suggest such a data structure. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 11, as well as claims 14 and 15 that depend therefrom, are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 16 recites a method for commanding a computer system including passing an input to a commanding node, and passing the input to a service coupled to the commanding node prior to invoking a handler even if the matching binding is found in the table of bindings. Davis fails to disclose or suggest such a method. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 16, as well as claims 17-20 that depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.

III.   Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruff, U.S. Patent Appl. Publ. No. 2005/0022165. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested for at least the following reasons.

Ruff discloses a system wherein shortcut key allocations can be customized. Ruff, ¶¶ 0042-0060; and Figs. 6-11.

Ruff fails to disclose or suggest that, even if the matching binding is found in the table of bindings of the commanding node, the commanding node passes the input to the service prior to

9

invoking a command handler, as recited by claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as well as claims 2-5 and 7-10 that depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.

Ruff fails to disclose or suggest first and second commanding nodes that form a tree, as recited by claim 11. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 11, as well as claims 14 and 15 that depend therefrom, are therefore respectfully requested.

Ruff likewise fails to disclose or suggest passing an input to a commanding node, and passing the input to a service coupled to the commanding node prior to invoking a handler even if the matching binding is found in the table of bindings, as recited by claim 16. Claim 16 is therefore allowable for at least reasons similar to those provided above with respect to claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 16, as well as claims 17-20 that depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.
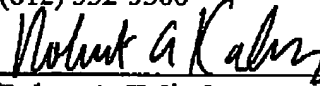
IV.   Conclusion

The remarks set forth herein provide certain arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claims. There may be other reasons that the pending claims are patentably distinct over the cited references, and the right to raise any such other reasons or arguments in the future is expressly reserved.

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: December 13, 2005

Robert A. Kalinsky
Reg. No. 50,471

10